

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a platform configured to command the operation of an appliance, a readable media having instructions for retrieving information, the instructions performing steps comprising:

5 in response to a sensed activation of a command key of the platform, transmitting a command to the appliance to cause the appliance to select a content stream and initiating a retrieval of information related to the content stream from an information source external to the platform; and

 displaying the retrieved information in a display of the platform.

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2. The readable media as recited in claim 1, wherein the information is retrieved using an address maintained within the platform.

3. The readable media as recited in claim 2, wherein the address is entered by a user of the
15 platform.

4. The readable media as recited in claim 2, wherein the address is automatically provided to the platform from a device external to the platform.

20 5. The readable media as recited in claim 1, wherein the command causes the appliance to select a channel.

6. The readable media as recited in claim 1, wherein the command key is included as part of an electronic program guide displayed within the display of the platform.

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7. The readable media as recited in claim 1, wherein the instructions provide for a user to designate the content stream which the appliance is commanded to select.

8. The readable media as recited in claim 1, wherein the content stream comprises a video
30 broadcast signal.

9. The readable media as recited in claim 1, wherein the content stream comprises an audio broadcast signal.

5 10. The readable media as recited in claim 2, wherein the address comprises a URL.

11. The readable media as recited in claim 1, wherein the display comprises a touch screen and the command key depicts a logo of a provider of the content stream and is displayed within the touch screen.

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12. In a platform configured to command the operation of an appliance, a readable media having instructions for retrieving information, the instructions performing steps comprising:
in response to a sensed activation of a command key of the platform, placing the platform into a mode to transmit commands to the appliance and initiating the retrieval of
15 information related to the appliance from an information source external to the platform; and
displaying the retrieved information in a display of the platform.

13. The readable media as recited in claim 12, wherein the information is retrieved using an
20 address maintained within the platform.

14. The readable media as recited in claim 13, wherein the address is entered by a user of the platform.

25 15. The readable media as recited in claim 13, wherein the address is automatically provided to the platform from a device external to the platform.

16. The readable media as recited in claim 13, wherein the address is a URL.

30 17. The readable media as recited in claim 13, wherein the information source comprises a Web site of a manufacturer of the appliance.

18. The readable media as recited in claim 1, wherein the retrieved information includes addresses to further information.

5 19. The readable media as recited in claim 18, wherein the addresses to further information comprise URLs.

20. The readable media as recited in claim 12, wherein the command key comprises an appliance mode selection key.

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21. The readable media as recited in claim 12, wherein the display comprises a touch screen display and the command key comprises an icon displayed in the touch screen display.

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